

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/526,409

Applicant(s)

TAKAZAWA, TOMOO

Examiner

Nguyen T. Ha

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3/12/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 8 and 10-27.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

NGUYEN T. HA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Christopher Bennett on 5/1/2007.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

Please change the title on Bib data sheet to - - Monolithic ceramic electronic component and method for making the same- - .

Response to Amendment

3. The examiner acknowledges the applicant's submission of the amendment date 3/12/2007. At this point, claims 1-7, and 9 have been canceled, claim 8 has been added. Thus, claims 8, and 10-27 are pending in the instant application.

Response to Arguments

4. The applicant's argument that Uchida et al. is silent with respect to a monolithic ceramic electronic component comprising: at least the first element portion and the second element portion are stacked to define a ceramic laminate, and a porosity of the ceramic layers of the first element portion is different from a porosity of the ceramic layers of the second element portion, and the first element portion includes a first coil

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defined by the internal electrodes thereof being electrically connected together, the second element portion includes a second coil defined by the internal electrodes thereof being electrically connected together, and the first coil and the second coil are electrically connected to define an inductor. The examiner finds this argument persuasive therefore, the examiner made decision to allow this limitation over the prior art of record.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 8, and 10-27 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to claims 8, and 10-21, the prior art alone or in combination does not teach the limitation of a monolithic ceramic electronic component comprising: at least the first element portion and the second element portion are stacked to define a ceramic laminate, and a porosity of the ceramic layers of the first element portion is different from a porosity of the ceramic layers of the second element portion, and the first element portion includes a first coil defined by the internal electrodes thereof being electrically connected together, the second element portion includes a second coil defined by the internal electrodes thereof being electrically connected together, and the first coil and the second coil are electrically connected to defined an inductor. With respect to claims 22-27, the prior art alone or in combination does not teach the limitation of a method for making a monolithic ceramic electronic component comprising: an amount of granular evaporative pore-forming agent incorporated into a ceramic slurry for forming the ceramic layers of the first element portion is different from

an amount of the granular evaporative fore-forming agent incorporated into a ceramic slurry for forming the ceramic layers of the second element portion so that the first element portion and second element portion have different porosities of ceramic layers.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Citation Relevant of Prior Art

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- a. Nakamura et al. (US 6,589,446) disclose ceramic slurry composition.
- b. Joulin et al. (US 6,582,796) disclose monolithic honeycomb structure made of porous ceramic.
- c. Iwao et al. (US 6,252,481) disclose chip type electronic part and method for the manufacture thereof.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nguyen T. Ha whose telephone number is 571-272-1974. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30AM to 6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dean Reichard can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext. 31. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

NGUYEN T. HA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

NH
5/1/2007